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15 July 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Director

SUBJECT : Planning Group Report

REFERENCES : (a) Your Memorandum SAFC-17065, 28 June 1957,  
Subject: "Planning Group"  
(b) My Memorandum SAFC-17336, 8 July 1957,  
Subject: "Planning Group Agenda"

1. In accordance with your instructions stated in Reference A and the Agenda as outlined in Reference B, this report is submitted.

2. ASSUMPTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:

a. AQUATONE plans to operate for another two years, or until the fall of 1959, maintaining overflight coverage of the USSR from bases in Europe and the Far East; or by staging operations, as applicable.

b. AQUATONE will retain its present operational command structure; that is to say, direction of AQUATONE will be vested in a direct channel of command under the Director of Central Intelligence.

c. AQUATONE will continue to maintain its priority within the Central Intelligence Agency, USAF; and its logistical priority designation (1-4c for Europe; 1-4c for the Far East; 1-4g for the ZI).

d. AQUATONE's primary vehicle, the U-2, will be kept operationally ready (as opposed to rust-off) at all times, with the exception of any aircraft used for R & D.

e. AQUATONE will, based on the number of targets to be covered, and considering past activity as well as political factors effecting AQUATONE, maintain a capability for the following number of missions:

(1) Strategic Missions:

- 3 European missions per month
- 1 Far Eastern mission (USSR) per month
- 2 Far Eastern missions (China) per month

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**(2) Cover/Training:**

12 weather/training missions per month per  
Detachment, except that such would not  
be necessary for staging operations

**(3) Tactical:**

8 European missions per month mean  
4 Far Eastern missions per month mean

**(4) Recapitulation:**

23 European missions  
\*19 Far Eastern missions  
12 ZI missions

(\*NOTE: 12 of which would not be applicable when  
Detachment is based in the ZI)

f. AQUATONE will maintain a capability for staging operations.

g. AQUATONE's communications facilities will continue to maintain a communications deception program.

h. AQUATONE's security classification will continue as in the past.

i. Air Weather Service support will continue for the duration of the Project.

**3. CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS:**

a. Primarily based on targets to be covered, the emphasis for coverage is from bases in Europe rather than the Far East. (See Enclosure (A)).

b. Political considerations may dictate that -- for a limited period of time -- AQUATONE may be engaged in tactical missions as its primary responsibility.

(This conclusion arrived at from an expressed opinion of the Chairman, Requirements Committee.)

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25X1A6a (1) A base in Europe should be maintained [REDACTED]

(2) A base in the Far East should be maintained only through the 1957 photographic season, after which time the Detachment now located [REDACTED] should be returned to a ZI base from which it will stage.

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25X1A6a (3) Facilities for staging should be retained [REDACTED] (including fuel storage). Staging operations will also be conducted [REDACTED] or other bases designated for coverage of targets.

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(These decisions reached through discussions by members of the Planning Group with senior AQUATONE staff officers.)

d. Staging operations will be conducted without the use of a hangar. Instead, a newly developed, tight fitting, pyramidal tent with aluminum support which is being used by the U. S. Marine Corps will be used for protection of the U-2 for pre-flight preparations.

(Decision made by Director of Operations in consultation with Director of Materiel and Project Security Officer.)

e. Cover will be modified as follows:

(1) Unclassified Cover Story: The Armed Forces Special Weapons Program (AFSWP) is responsible for a High Altitude Sampling Program (HASP) which is being conducted by the Strategic Air Command (SAC) in the Western Hemisphere. AFSWP recognizes the operationally ready facilities of NACA in their Air Weather Service's (AWS) Weather Reconnaissance Squadrons, Provisional, which have been located overseas conducting high altitude (55,000 feet) missions for the collection of meteorological data during the past year. Rather than for HASP to establish their own facilities and organization in areas where NACA has been conducting its meteorological research, AFSWP has arranged for use of these facilities overseas to collect data as required for HASP. AWS will remain, as before, the executive agent. The pilots for the U-2 will continue to be civilians under contract with NACA, but will be reimbursed by AFSWP funds.

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(3) On 12 July [redacted] met with Dr. Dryden and Mr. Bonney of NACA (having first met with Mr. Bonney alone the previous day) to discuss the cover story as described in Para 3a (1) above. He indicated that (a) such a story would go into effect in approximately 2 months, (b) that we would discuss the matter with Adm. Parker of AFMWP prior to such a story going into effect for his concurrence, and (c) that if accepted we would plan to use this cover for the next 2 years. Dr. Dryden approved of our suggestion for the use of this story and indicated that NACA would be willing to continue to support us under this modified cover relation concept.

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f. Project Director of Administration has determined that AQUATONE cannot be adequately manned with qualified personnel for the next two years without allowing dependents to reside with personnel stationed both in the ZI and overseas. Therefore, personnel attached to the Detachment [redacted] will be permitted to have their dependents accompany them; they will live presumably [redacted] (Army billeting has control over housing [redacted]).

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g. [redacted] is of no further use to AQUATONE. If CIA does not wish to retain it we should give it to AEC. If CIA does wish to retain [redacted] the cost and control for its maintenance in mothballs (cost \$7,700 per 6 months) should be turned over to real estate and construction.

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(Decision reached taking into account maintenance costs, inability to provide billeting for dependents, and the possibility of evacuation in the event of future AEC tests).

h. Within the ZI there will be one base for both operations and R & D. This base will be at North Field, Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. Additional facilities will be needed to accommodate at least seven U-2s, two T-33s, and one C-124. Dependent housing will be needed on the base or at a nearby location.

(This decision reached for the following reasons: (1) availability of base facilities, (2) present occupancy by AQUATONE, (3) favorable climate for operations, (4) good security; and making it unnecessary to brief additional personnel which would have to be done if AQUATONE were to go to a new ZI base, (5) accessibility for Far East staging, as opposed to an east coast ZI base, (6) proximity to primary suppliers.

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(NOTE: Alternate, in order of preference, to the above decision, i.e., Edwards Air Force Base, is:

- (a) USAF base on West Coast
- (b) USN base on West Coast
- (c) USN base at Charleston, Rhode Island (or other East Coast USN base)
- (d) USAF base on East Coast) 25X1A6a

1. The AQUATONE personnel [REDACTED] will be retained at that location, or at a similar location, performing their present function.

(Decision by Director of Materiel)

4. RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR PROJECT DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:

a. Reaffirmation of assumptions and requirements (see para 1).

b. Detachment A will remain in place until 7 November 1957, with a phasing out of personnel, including such leaves as appropriate, to begin no earlier than 15 September 1957. Such phasing will be at Project convenience rather than individual convenience.

c. Personnel from Detachment B will combine with those personnel of Detachment A who wish to extend their tours, and a reorganized Detachment (to be known internally as Detachment D for administrative purposes, but to retain the designation of Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, Provisional (1st)) will be formed [REDACTED] on 8 November 1957. 25X1A6a

d. As the 18 month tour of those individuals assigned to Detachment B terminates on 23 February 1958, it will be left to the discretion of the Project not the individual as to whether Detachment B personnel may be returned to the XI prior to that date. 25X1A6a

e. The hangar and facilities [REDACTED] will be retained until 1 December at which time the hangar will be released but some billeting and facilities will be retained for a 2 year period (to be used for staging operations).

f. A survey of both Detachments A and B will be made immediately to determine which individuals desire to remain with AQUATONE [REDACTED]. A Headquarters recruiting program, as necessary, will be initiated to fill slots not filled in the reorganized Detachment [REDACTED]. 25X1A6a

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g. Dependents will be allowed to accompany those Detachment personnel stationed [REDACTED] and at the Detachment stationed in the ZI, this policy to go into effect on 7 November 1957.

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h. Operationally, the Detachment [REDACTED] should maintain a readiness for 30-day staging operations through [REDACTED]. Such operations will be conducted without the use of a hangar.

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i. Detachment C, now stationed [REDACTED] will remain at that location until 31 January 1958 at which time they will be deployed to Edwards Air Force Base.

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j. Detachment C, retaining its original Detachment designation, will maintain a capability for staging operations.

k. Negotiations should be conducted with the USAF for assignment of two C-124s (one for each base) to AQUATONE.

l. R & D will continue at EAFB according to the need for such.

m. AQUATONE cover will be modified as described in 2c.

n. AQUATONE support from and personnel [REDACTED] or at a similar location will be continued.

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5. FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED WHICH MIGHT EFFECT ACTION:

a. Political situation in Germany: with elections in Germany in the fall of 1957 it might become necessary for AQUATONE to move (either at the request of the Germans or the U.S. Department of State), in which case the facilities at [REDACTED] should be maintained as an alternate.

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b. Collaboration with [REDACTED] proposed at Bernadé, has not been considered within the scope of this study.

c. Collaboration with the U.S. Navy by conversion of AQUATONE U-2s for Navy use has not been considered in this study; however, the possibility of AQUATONE giving the USN 1 or 2 U-2s has been taken into account, while the stated required number of 6 by the Navy would radically effect the conclusions reached above.

d. The possibility of AQUATONE taking an active participation in the High Altitude Sampling Program (HASP) of the Armed Forces Special Weapons Program (AFSWP) by basing in Buenos Aires, Argentina for 3 or 4 months during the winter of 1957-58 has been considered as a possibility, and looked on favorably the Project Operations as a

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means by which personnel and aircraft could be kept in operational readiness and afford training, while also accomplishing a useful requirement. However, a decision on this matter can be made, and in fact should be made after approval is received on the points itemized in para 4 above. The first action to be taken should be a discussion with Adm. Parker of AFSWP.

e. Consideration has also been given to the use of a commercial cover by AQUATONE; however, it is believed that this can be best presented through a separate report.

6. Should you approve of the action items listed in para 4 of this memorandum, the directors of the major AQUATONE staff components could immediately initiate appropriate action within their own departments. It is obvious that much planning must be done to implement these suggested action items; and in fact, in the case of the selection of personnel for Detachment D we are already late in beginning to plan. Although some adjustment and perhaps more discussion between the CIA and USAF is necessary to reaffirm some of the assumptions stated in para 2 of this memorandum, I believe it can be safely assumed that if 1a is not accepted, AQUATONE *par se* will be out of business. Therefore, it is recommended that for present planning and action purposes the assumptions be accepted as valid.

Chairman, Planning Group  
PCS/DCI

Member Planning Group

Member Planning Group

ADM:aml (15 July 1957)

1 - Addressee

2 - Dep Proj Dir ✓

6 - Admin

7 - Ops

8 - Material

9 - Contracts

10 - Comm

11 - Secur

12 - Cover

14 - Pers

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